



## Fundacion Muchilla and Dutch Maestro Jan Formannoy inspire Aruba's youth with music

During the last two weeks of August, Jan Formannoy, Director of the Music Conservatory of Maastricht, in the Netherlands has been working with Funacion Muchilla in conducting workshops with Aruba's aspiring music teachers. Rose-Marie Provence, president of the foundation, director of the music department of IPA, Aruba's teacher training institute, and a former student of Mr. Formannoy was instrumental in arranging the program.

Several students of the IPA took part in the workshop, and then spent the second week training a number of novice musicians in working together successfully to present a surprisingly polished performance during a recital at the Cas di Cultura on Wednesday, July 23.

Three bands were formed, and three IPA students were assigned to each group. Popular music was the genre to which the students applied their newly learned skills, and proud parents applauded the fine renditions that were presented that evening. "Linger" by the Cranberries, "Light my Fire" by the Doors, "Lean on Me" and other well known contemporary pieces along with popular Latin songs were on the program, and the children's performance, considering they had only been studying for three afternoons, was laudable.

After the recital, each of the young musicians received a certificate signed by both Jan and Rose-Marie for their determination and successful completion of the course, as did all the IPA students. Cherry Ras, organizer commented that "the motivation and resolve of the novice musicians was very satisfying to see, and that the IPA students produced remarkable results in the short time allowed them."

Lupita Geil, Director of UNOCA, which funded the project, was very pleased with the results, and has great expectations for the next workshop, commencing immediately under the tutelage of noted pianist and teacher Elise Sobel of New York. Ms. Sobel was recently in Aruba conducting workshops in her programs that use music to motivate autistic children.

The Fundacion Muchilla is devoted to the development of culture on Aruba in the direction of teaching instructors and potential performers in various disciplines. The foundation, with the assistance of UNOCA imports noted teachers and musicians to conduct workshops, imparting their knowledge and expertise to local aspiring performers. Wednesday night's recital proved that there is a great interest amongst the island youth in such a program, and that the results were very worthwhile.